CURRENT LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1 – 88. (cancelled without prejudice)

89. (new) A purchasing risk management method implemented by a computer including a processor, comprising:

using the processor to:

compute a vendor mix from prior purchases, future commitments and a forecast inventory depletion for each period of a forecast planning period based on one or more scenarios for an item demand, an item price, an item availability and a specified service level for each of a plurality of items; and

compute one or more variables for each item based upon the computed vendor mix.

90. (new) The method of claim 89, wherein the one or more variables comprise an item trend variable.

91. (new) The method of claim 89, wherein the one or more variables comprise an item demand variability variable.

92. (new) The method of claim 89, wherein the one or more variables comprise an item obsolescence risk variable.

93. (new) The method of claim 89, wherein the one or more variables comprise a variable that combines an item trend variable, an item demand variability variable and an item obsolescence risk variable.

94. (new) The method of claim 89, wherein the one or more variables comprise one or more metrics.

95. (new) The method of claim 89, wherein the one or more variables comprise a variable that combines a normalized item trend variable, a normalized item demand variability variable and a normalized item obsolescence risk variable where the scale of the item risk variable is reversed.

96. (new) The method of claim 95, wherein the variable has a utility in developing a composite forecast.

97. (new) The method of claim 89, wherein the method further comprises:

preparing a plurality of data related to a commercial enterprise for use in analysis,

identifying a set of data required for analyzing the commercial enterprise from the prepared data,

analyzing the set of data in an automated fashion as required to identify one or more statistics, and

using the statistics and the set of data to develop a model of an enterprise current operation financial performance using one or more automated learning techniques

where the commercial enterprise physically exists, and

where the set of data comprises the one or more variables computed for each item based upon the computed vendor mix.

98. (new) A computer program product tangibly embodied on a computer readable medium and comprising a non-transitory program code for directing a computer with at least one processor to:

compute a vendor mix from prior purchases, future commitments, and a forecast inventory depletion for each period of a forecast planning period based on one or more scenarios for an item demand, an item price, an item availability and a specified service level for each of a plurality of items; and

compute one or more variables for each item based upon the computed vendor mix.

99. (new) The computer program product of claim 98, wherein the one or more variables comprise an item trend variable.

100. (new) The computer program product of claim 98, wherein the one or more variables comprise an item demand variability variable.

101. (new) The computer program product of claim 98, wherein the one or more variables comprise an item obsolescence risk variable.

102. (new) The computer program product of claim 98, wherein the one or more variables comprise a variable that combines an item trend variable, an item demand variability variable and an item obsolescence risk variable.

103. (new) The computer program product of claim 98, wherein the one or more variables comprise one or more metrics.

104. (new) The computer program product of claim 98, wherein the one or more variables comprise a variable that combines a normalized item trend variable, a normalized item demand variability variable and a normalized item obsolescence risk variable where the scale of the item risk variable is reversed.

105. (new) The computer program product of claim 104, wherein the variable has a utility in developing a composite forecast.

103. (previously presented) A system, comprising: a computer with a processor having circuitry to execute instructions; a storage device available to said processor with sequences of instructions stored therein, which when executed cause the processor to:

compute a vendor mix from prior purchases, future commitments, and a forecast inventory depletion for each period of a forecast planning period based on one or more scenarios for an item demand, an item price, an item availability and a specified service level for each of a plurality of items; and

compute one or more variables for each item based upon the computed vendor mix.

104. (new) The system of claim 103, wherein the one or more variables comprise an item trend variable.

105. (new) The system of claim 103, wherein the one or more variables comprise an item demand variability variable.

106. (new) The system of claim 103, wherein the one or more variables comprise an item obsolescence risk variable.

107. (new) The system of claim 103, wherein the one or more variables comprise a variable that combines an item trend variable, an item demand variability variable and an item obsolescence risk variable.

108. (new) The system of claim 103, wherein the one or more variables comprise one or more metrics.

109. (new) The system of claim 103, wherein the one or more variables comprise a variable that combines a normalized item trend variable, a normalized item demand variability variable and a normalized item obsolescence risk variable where the scale of the item risk variable is reversed.

110. (new) The system of claim 109, wherein the variable has a utility in developing a composite forecast.

111. (new) The system of claim 103, wherein the sequences of instructions stored in the storage device also cause the processor to:

prepare a plurality of data related to a commercial enterprise for use in analysis,

identify a set of data required for analyzing the commercial enterprise from the prepared data,

analyze the set of data in an automated fashion as required to identify one or more statistics, and

use the statistics and the set of data to develop a model of an enterprise current operation financial performance by using one or more automated learning techniques

where the commercial enterprise physically exists, and

where the set of data comprises the one or more variables computed for each item based upon the computed vendor mix.